

industry through its own catering service. This invaluable, hands-on job training allows their clients to gain experience, develop job skills and learn to adapt to a work environment.

In addition, through the Emergency Food Network, Let's Celebrate serves over 70,000 meals to our neediest citizens every year. These four soup kitchens and 16 food pantries also help distribute clothing.

Furthermore, through the Housing Plus program, HIV positive individuals and their families receive counseling, medical attention as well as help with housing.

I would like to thank Let's Celebrate for its incredible service to Hudson County and for inviting me to its 16th Anniversary Mad Hatter Ball. This amazing organization truly gives us all a reason to celebrate.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

#### HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 1998*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Jewish National Fund (JNF) for their fund-raising efforts on behalf of the children of Israel.

The Talmud states that, "He who does charity and justice is as if he had filled the whole world with kindness." In the spirit of these words, the Jewish National Fund has taken steps to ensure that the preservation of the environment remains a top priority for Israelis now and for generations to come. The Jewish National Fund is the American fund-raising arm of Keran Kayemeth LeIsrael (KKL), the official afforestation and land reclamation agency of Israel. Through fund-raising and their efforts to heighten awareness, JNF of America supports the KKL in its attempts to bolster environmental concerns, water conservation, recreation and agriculture, employment of new immigrants, tourism and research and development in Israel.

One of KKL's many projects is a summer camp designed specifically for young immigrant and underprivileged Israeli children. The camp provides children with first-hand knowledge of forestry and a chance to participate in enjoyable outdoor activities that they may never have participated in before. At the same time, the camp experience is a vital introduction into Israeli life. It provides the youngsters with an understanding of their common cultural heritage. They learn to share their hopes and dreams with each other and they benefit from the varying perspectives they encounter at camp. This month the Jewish National Fund will be hosting its eighth annual Friendship Cup Golf Classic in Westlake Village, California in an effort to raise money for the camp. I would like to wish good luck to all participants and join with them in promoting their common cause.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in honoring the Greater Los Angeles, Valleys, and South Bay Region of the Jewish National Fund for supporting the children of Israel and investing in their future.

#### AMBASSADOR SANDY VERSHBOW ON NATO ENLARGEMENT

#### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 1998*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, five weeks ago the Senate began the debate on the admission of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to the North Atlantic Alliance (NATO). That debate and the vote of the Senate to ratify the accession protocols of these three countries is expected to take place in the near future.

A few weeks ago, Mr. Speaker, two opinion pieces which were published in the Washington Post—one by David Broder and the other by Jim Hoagland—which questioned the extent to which the enlargement of NATO has been thoroughly discussed and evaluated prior to the Senate vote on this critical issue. I strongly disagree with the point of view that these two experienced journalists have expressed.

During the recent District Work Period, the Washington Post published an excellent letter to the editor from U.S. Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Council, Ambassador Alexander R. Vershbow, "The Case for NATO Expansion."

Ambassador Vershbow is a career diplomat who has served our nation with great distinction as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for European Affairs at the National Security Council at the White House (1994–1997). Earlier he served as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Canadian Affairs (1993–1994) and he was Deputy Permanent U.S. Representative to NATO (1991–1993). He also brings a sensitivity to the problem of Russia in the expansion of NATO, having served as Director of the State Department's Office of Soviet Union Affairs (1988–1991).

Mr. Speaker, I ask that Ambassador Vershbow's excellent letter, published in the Washington Post on Tuesday, April 7, be placed in the RECORD. I urge my colleagues to read his thoughtful views.

[From the Washington Post, April 7, 1998]

#### THE CASE FOR NATO EXPANSION

Critics have sought to give the impression that serious debate about NATO enlargement has never taken place and that the United States and its allies have failed to address important questions about Russia and the future security environment in Europe.

More than 1,000 articles published during the past year and a half have covered all aspects of NATO's evolving role. More than 300 conferences on NATO enlargement have been held in Europe and North America, including several in Russia. Twelve hearings before Congress in the past six months—with more than 550 pages of testimony—have explored the details of NATO's mission and membership and examined arguments from every point on the political spectrum.

Critics charge that NATO enlargement will poison relations with Russia. This might be true if NATO were seeking to isolate Russia, but the opposite is the case. Through the Partnership for Peace and the newly established NATO-Russia Permanent Joint Council, NATO has created a network of security cooperation that has engaged all the states of Europe—even former neutrals. The new NATO gives Moscow a chance to move away

from the old Soviet pattern of confrontation to one of real partnership in Europe.

NATO-Russian relations are better and show more promise today than they have at any time in the past 50 years. They encompass everything from planning for joint action in civil disasters to joint military operations in Bosnia. And they are still developing. How counterproductive it would be if we undercut Boris Yeltsin's courageous decision to cooperate with NATO by bowing to the pressure of Russian hard-liners. That would strengthen the anti-democratic elements in Russia and encourage the belief that the Allies, in the face of Moscow's bullying, had returned Central Europe to a gray zone of instability and limited sovereignty.

As we work to adapt NATO to better fit the security environment of the next century, we understand that we must preserve the essential feature that has made this the most successful alliance in history—the integrated military structure and its capacity for collective defense. The three new members we have invited will significantly improve the alliance's defense capabilities. And having so recently regained their freedom after decades of totalitarian oppression, they can be counted on to stand with us, not just in defense of NATO territory but when the values we share are threatened—as they did recently during the confrontation with Iraq.

In postponing the vote on ratification for several weeks, Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott declared that his intention was to "get a focus on the issue." It is proper to ensure a fair debate of the issue, but as Sen. Jesse Helms noted in sending the bill to the floor of the Senate, now is the time to act.

No one who favors democracy should want to keep the lines of security drawn in Europe where Stalin marked them in 1945. NATO enlargement is the right policy for the United States and the right policy for the future of democracy in Europe.

ALEXANDER VERSHBOW,  
Ambassador, U.S. Mission  
to NATO, Brussels.

#### TRIBUTE TO CARMELA "MEL" CURRIER

#### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 1998*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention Carmela "Mel" Currier of Passaic, New Jersey. Mel is being honored this evening on the occasion of her retirement after 21 years of service to the County of Passaic.

Mel began her career in Passaic County in June of 1977, working as a keypunch verifier/operator in the Administration Building. In April of 1979, she was transferred to the County Clerk's office in the Civil Law Department (Judiciary) as a Clerk Typist.

In less than a year, Mel was put into the Criminal Part of the office, entering bail recognizances, forfeitures, and reinstatements of bail. After proving herself to be a competent worker, she was given more responsibility by the County Clerk. Upon taking the Civil Service promotional tests and coming in first in a series of these tests, Mel worked her way up to become Chief Docket Clerk, the position which she has held until her recent retirement.

During her years prior to becoming a State worker, Mel was very involved in the Democratic Party. Throughout her 23 years of service to the Party, Mel has served as treasurer,

vice-president, and president of the City of Passaic's Democratic Party. Additionally, she served as a County Committeewoman and a Ward leader.

Mel will be married 37 years come this May to John Currier, who is a retired Deputy Chief of the Passaic Fire Department. Mel and John have a son, Joseph, who is classified as autistic and had to attend special schools and classes. Joe has since overcome many of his autistic tendencies, thanks in part to his mother's interest in the "Saturday Group."

Mel is President of the Learning Disabled Young Adult Group, Inc., which oversees her son Joe's "Saturday Group." The group's Board of Directors set policy, disseminate information to the public, and hold fundraisers and many other events.

Mel is also very active in her church, Saint Nicholas' Roman Catholic Church on Washington Street in Passaic. She serves as a Eucharistic Minister, leads the congregation at the 4:00 p.m. mass in their Hymns and responses, and sings at the 11:00 a.m. mass in the church choir.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Mel's family, friends, and colleagues, and the County of Passaic in recognizing Carmela "Mel" Currier's many outstanding and invaluable contributions to our community, and in wishing her continued health and happiness in her retirement.

HONORING EDWARD AND JESSIE FREEMAN, SR. ON THEIR 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 1998*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to celebrate the 50th wedding anniversary of Edward and Jessie Freeman, Sr. It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Edward and Jessie on their special day.

What a remarkable accomplishment to be able to celebrate a marriage that has endured for so many years. The bond that brought them together has remained and grown over the years. May they always share the love and joy they feel today.

In an era where marriages are too often short lived, it is wonderful to see a couple who have endured the trials and tribulations that can cause a marriage to fail. The love and commitment they have demonstrated should serve as an inspiration to couples everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, what an achievement to be married for 50 years. It is an honor to represent a couple like the Freeman's. I am proud to call them my constituents.

IN HONOR OF EQUAL PAY DAY,  
APRIL 3, 1998

**HON. DAVID E. BONIOR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 1998*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the Coalition of Labor Union Women as they join together to raise awareness of Equal Pay Day. Their dedication to fair

wages in the work place deserves to be commended.

Throughout America's history, men, women, and children have fought for fair and equitable treatment in the workplace. Advocates for child labor laws and unions have fought to protect workers' bargaining rights, wages, and working conditions. However, women are still subject to workplace discrimination where their wages are concerned. On an average, women earn 74 cents for every dollar a man earns. This results in a loss of over a quarter of a million dollars throughout a 30-year career, a loss that not only affects weekly paychecks but also retirement.

The Equal Pay Act of 1963 in conjunction with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits wage discrimination for equal or substantially equal work on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, and national origin. However, to the detriment of the worker, wage laws are not strictly enforced and discrimination suits are difficult to prove.

As communities, families, friends and colleagues, we must all work together to fight for fair wages for all working people. All Americans have the right to equitable pay regardless of their race or sex. Thanks to organizations such as the Coalition of Labor Union Women, this issue will not go unnoticed. I ask my colleagues to join me in lending their support for fair wages for women.

IN HONOR OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MINORITY STUDENT PROGRAM AT RUTGERS SCHOOL OF LAW-NEWARK

**HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 1998*

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Minority Student Program at Rutgers School of Law-Newark for its 30th Anniversary. In celebration, Roger I. Abrams, dean of the law school, and the Minority Student Program sponsored the Annual Spring Banquet at the Hilton Gateway in Newark, New Jersey on Saturday, April 18, 1998.

The School of Law-Newark at Rutgers is committed to the diversity of its law school community and to the diversity of the legal profession. Since its establishment in 1968, MSP has pursued a policy of equal opportunity for those who have been historically underrepresented in law schools and in the legal profession. Over 1000 students of color and students from disadvantaged backgrounds have graduated from the law school.

The law school historically has attracted students who want to make a difference in the world in which they live. These students represent every ethnic group and nationality. Graduates now make important social and political contributions to their community as judges, presidential appointees, law professors, and prominent members of the bar.

It is a honor and a pleasure to be part of this celebration and to recognize the dedication and commitment of the Minority Student Program at Rutgers School of Law-Newark. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in paying tribute to this remarkable program.

TRIBUTE TO FRED KORT

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 1998*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday of this week, representatives of the Congress, the Administration, and the Supreme Court will gather in the Great Rotunda of this building for the National Civic Commemoration to remember the victims of the Holocaust. This annual national memorial service pays tribute to the six million Jews who died through senseless and systematic Nazi terror and brutality. At this somber commemoration, we will also honor those heroic American and other Allied forces who liberated the Nazi concentration camps over half a century ago.

Mr. Speaker, this past week Fortune Magazine (April 13, 1998) devoted several pages to an article entitled "Everything in History was Against Them," which profiles five survivors of Nazi savagery who came to the United States penniless and built fortunes here in their adopted homeland. It is significant, Mr. Speaker, that four of these five are residents of my home state of California. My dear friend Fred Kort of Los Angeles was one of the five that Fortune Magazine selected to highlight in this extraordinary article, and I want to pay tribute to him today.

Fred Kort, like the other four singled out by Fortune Magazine, has a unique story, but there are common threads to these five tales of personal success. The story of the penniless immigrant who succeeds in America is a familiar theme in our nation's lore, but these stories involve a degree of courage and determination unmatched in the most inspiring of Horatio Alger's stories.

These men were, in the words of author Carol J. Loomis, "Holocaust survivors in the most rigorous sense," they "actually experienced the most awful horrors of the Holocaust, enduring a Nazi death camp or a concentration camp or one of the ghettos that were essentially holding pens for those camps."

They picked themselves up "from the very cruelest of circumstances, they traveled to America and prospered as businessmen. They did it, to borrow a phrase from Elie Wiesel, when everything in history was against them." They were teenagers or younger when World War II began. They lost six years of their youth and six years of education. "They were deprived of liberty and shorn of dignity. All lost relatives, and most lost one or both parents. Each . . . was forced to live constantly with the threat of death and the knowledge that next time he might be 'thumbed' not into a line of prisoners allowed to live, but into another line headed for the gas chambers." Through luck and the sheer will to survive, these were some of the very fortunate who lived to tell the story of that horror.

The second part of their stories is also similar—a variant of the American dream. These courageous men came to the United States with "little English and less money." Despite their lack of friends and mentors, they found the drive to succeed. As Loomis notes, "many millions who were unencumbered by the heavy, exhausting baggage of the Holocaust had the same opportunities and never reached out to seize them as these men did." Their